

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve Mc Corkle, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

PIONEER ABATEMENT

Chairman Gerald Mohr opened the public hearing to address the status of the tax abatement granted to DuPont Pioneer Hi-Bred international, Inc. Pioneer recently reduced the workforce of its fifty four employees by forty employees. Finding that the factors leading to this reduction were within the control of DuPont Pioneer, and hearing no public comments, Marvin Hedrick moved to disallow the real estate and personal property abatement for Fall 2015 tax bills. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Janet Kile moved to close the public hearing. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gerald Mohr called the regular meeting to order

Minutes of the April 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Warren Norris and seconded by Scott Barnes. Motion carried.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE APPOINTMENT

Due to the resignation of ABC board member John Mull, Charles Smith moved to appoint Ross Winters to fill the vacancy. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STORAGE TANK REMOVAL

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported an estimate of \$13,300 for the removal of the underground storage tank behind the jail. Scott Barnes moved to allow the expenditure from the Cumulative Capital Fund. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

Area Plan Vice President Marvin Rees shared that the appropriation for the Plan Consultant is out of funds and there is a current bill of \$10,000. Marvin Hedrick moved that an additional appropriation of \$40,000 be granted. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The budgeted line item for the Executive Director's salary is has been depleted. Charles Smith moved that \$22,766 be transferred from 1-23-3-1 Plan Consultant to 1-23-1-1 Executive Director. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Rhea Dawn Buckley announced that her assistant Debbie Davis has tendered her resignation. Scott Barnes moved that Buckley be allowed to replace the position of no more than 29 hours. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried with Janet Kile opposing.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that the inmate count is at 35. Cowan also reported that the bedbug detecting dog is scheduled for next week.

The reserves logged 17.5 hours. They will be assisting the department in the Wind Farm meetings at the Courthouse and Glenwood. The sheriff noted that dispatch received 448 calls. There are 502 outstanding warrants, and Courthouse security has made one arrest. The new fire frequency repeater was installed but did not work. The old repeater was put back into service until the problem can be resolved and it was reported that the tower is showing wear.

Warren Norris moved to approve the reinstatement of the Sheriff's Pension Fund. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried with Marvin Hedrick abstaining.

AUDITOR

Linda Mahan who is employed by Rush County Soil & Water submitted her plan to retire in September.

The following Council members have committed to attend the State Board of Accounts annual training session on June 20th: Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, & Marvin Hedrick.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Leigh Morning reported that the special legislation for additional Rush County LOIT to assist in the construction of a new jail has passed during the recent session.

Morning shared that Flat Rock Wind, LLC, as subsidiary of Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC has completed approximately 99% of the Economic and Decommissioning agreements. Currently there is no road use agreement. Apex plans on hiring an engineering firm to development criteria for roads. The consensus was that the county should not proceed until the Commissioners have all three agreements submitted.

ECDC

Economic Development Director John Mc Cane informed the board that surveys are being collected for the Home Town Initiative. A community forum will take place on May 28th at 5:30p.m. at the Rush County School Administration Building.

Charles Smith move to adjourn. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Scott Barnes
Scott Barnes

/s/ Steve McCorkle
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor